



TIP OF THE SPEAR

WOUNDED WARRIOR GAMES REIGNITE 'MARINE SPIRIT'



More than 250 wounded, ill and injured Marines came together at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 28-March 6 to compete in the third annual Marine Corps Trials. The Olympic-style competition featured eight different sports: archery, shooting, swimming, cycling, track, field, wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball. "The focus is on ability not the disability," said Lt. Col. Jim Fullwood, commanding officer of the Wounded Warrior Battalion West. "It's about reigniting the Marine Corps spirit. It gives them an opportunity to find that spirit and achieve something great." Athletes competed in four teams:

Wounded Warrior Battalion East, Wounded Warrior Battalion West, International Military, and Veterans. Fifty Marines from the trials will represent the Marines at the 2013 Warrior Games at the Olympic Training Center and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 11-17. [Read more](#)



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

The Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps describe the impact of sequester on the

Corps, and reassure Marines and their families that while we will face some difficult decisions, the Corps will do everything it can to maintain readiness while keeping faith with our Marines, civilian Marines, and their families. *(Official Marine Corps Video)*



IN THE NEWS

26TH MEU SETS SAIL AS GLOBAL 911 FORCE



The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) set sail March 7 for its six to seven month deployment across the Mediterranean and Middle East. "The purpose of a MEU is to be the all-purpose, capable strike force that can go out and do anything," said MEU Sgt. Maj. Todd M. Parisi. "It's the most magnificent composition of military personnel in the world. With 2,500 personnel, we can go out and self-sustain in theater whether it's ashore or afloat." The Marines and Sailors trained for eight months leading up to the deployment. During training, they were sent to New York to aid in Hurricane Sandy relief. [Read more](#)

SILVER STAR AWARDED TO FAMILY OF FALLEN MARINE



The family of Sgt. Wade D. "Willy" Wilson, who was fatally wounded in Afghanistan last year, received the Silver Star March 14 in Wilson's honor. Wilson was providing security for a vehicle crippled by an improvised explosive device when an insurgent opened fire on four Marines in the downed vehicle, critically wounding one. Wilson left his armored vehicle, placed himself between the critically wounded Marine and the insurgent's fire, and sustained multiple gunshot wounds until falling mortally wounded. "His selfless dedication to place himself directly in the line of

fire demonstrated tremendous courage and protected his fellow Marines from further harm," the award citation states. [Read more](#)

OKINAWA COMMUNITY LEARNS ABOUT MV-22



Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265 hosted an MV-22B Osprey family day March 3 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan. Approximately 300 parents and children were able to tour two Ospreys, try on flight safety equipment, talk with aircrews, and view a video presentation of the aircraft's capabilities. "Any opportunity for a bilateral cultural exchange is a great opportunity, not only for us, but also for the community," said Lt. Col. William L. DePue, commanding officer of VMM-265. "It was a great opportunity to give some members of the community a firsthand look at the aircraft." [Read more](#)

MARINES GO TO CUISINE EXTREMES TO WIN OVER THAI LOCALS



In Thailand, U.S. Marines munched jungle grubs and guzzled snake blood alongside their Thai counterparts as part of the Cobra Gold 2013 joint military exercise. This beastly feast is just one example of the culture exchanges that take place overseas, which help to build positive relationships with the local communities. In Afghanistan, Marines were invited to slice the throats of goats, and they later reciprocated by offering steaming bowls of their own exotic fare: Ramen noodles. "We're bred from the beginning to do what it takes to become one with the local populace and win over their trust," said former Sgt. Thomas Brennan. [Read more](#)

MARINE OFFICER SPEARHEADS ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Two years ago, Capt. Christopher Simpson, Recruiting Station (RS) New



exercises. [Read more](#)

Jersey's executive officer, began the RS New Jersey Leadership Seminar for High School Athletes; today its impact on the community is evident. "I couldn't have imagined just how this program has evolved since it was started," Simpson said. "I have high school coaches contact me almost every day about how they can have their team attend our seminar." The program focuses on teaching high school athletes the Marine Corps' 14 leadership traits including judgment, dependability, initiative, loyalty and tact. The students also build team work through a circuit course of

VETERANS WANTED FOR MANAGEMENT JOBS



Corporations are actively recruiting young veterans from infantry ranks and elsewhere for management or team-leading positions, according to a survey of Fortune 1000 companies, scheduled to publish in the April edition of G.I. Jobs Magazine. According to the survey, businesses say they value the skills service members develop operating within a chain of command and handling mission-focused tasks. "It's decision-making ability -- that's what you're hiring somebody for," says Dan Piontkowski, veterans staffing program manager for Hewlett-Packard. The survey highlighted 20 top jobs for which corporations are hiring veterans, including project management, operations, customer service, personnel, retail and banking. [Read more](#)

[Top 20 Hot Jobs for Veterans](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA TEEN WITH FAILING EYESIGHT GETS SURPRISE TOUR OF MCAS BEAUFORT



Charlie Bowers, 18, was given a surprise tour of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., Feb. 15, allowing the teen who dreams of being a pilot to get up close and personal with Marine aircrafts. Bowers has a degenerative disease called Stargardt's disease, causing him to slowly go blind. And while he can't be a pilot, he jumped at the opportunity to 'fly' using the station's simulator. "It was nice to sit in there and do something



that I'll never actually be able to do, but have the experience of having done it," he said. He's now following his aviation ambition by way of aerospace propulsion engineering. [Read more](#)

VETS HONOR 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF IWO JIMA



Japanese and U.S. veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima, along with active-duty service members, came together on Iwo To, Japan, for the annual Reunion of Honor Ceremony March 13, commemorating the 68th anniversary of the battle. The ceremony is a testament to the hard-fought battle of the past and the relationship that was born from that prior clash of arms. "The war ended 68 years ago, and now we're good friends with Japan, so I have a different attitude," said retired Marine Lt. Gen. Lawrence Snowden. "We may not forget, but we certainly can forgive." [Read more](#)

Also Read: Aging Iwo Jima Vets Return to Island



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

MARCH 13, 1943

The first group of 71 women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.



SEMPER FI

MARINE RECEIVES BRONZE STAR 70 YEARS LATER



It took 70 years, but Marine Cpl. Walt Filipek finally received his Bronze Star and Purple Heart, March 4. Filipek, a veteran of the bloody Okinawa campaign of World War II, was talking with another Marine veteran about his service and discovered he might be entitled to medals he didn't know he had. Filipek was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his actions on Okinawa, but through a bureaucratic oversight, the medals never arrived. Filipek was wounded twice on the island but returned to the front lines each time. He was also presented with a number of campaign medals. [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps... the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***





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